

REMARKS

After entry of the above amendments, claims 1-9 and 14 are pending in this application. Applicants have canceled claims 10-13 and 15 and have amended claims 1 and 14. No new matter has been added. Applicants have also amended claim 9 in response to the Examiner's rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 10-12 and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) as being unpatentable over Oka U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0161305 and claims 1-9 and 14 under 35 USC 103(a) over Oka in combination with Goto U.S. Patent 6,527,726 and four other references. The rejections under 35 USC 102(b) are moot in view of the amendments canceling claims 10-13 and 15. Applicants respectfully traverse the remaining rejections with respect to the claims, as amended.

Amended claim 1 recites that the combination of elements includes a defining unit including means for detecting a site where the direct current component is stable, for defining a pressurization force of pressing the pressure sensor against a body surface as an optimum pressurization force, when the direct current component is stable. Support for this may be found in applicants' Fig. 4 and the accompanying text in the specification. Claim 14 was similarly amended. Thus, applicants have emphasized that the defining unit determines whether the direct current component of the intra-arterial pressure waveform is stable or not. None of the cited references discloses that the pressurization force when the direct current component is stable corresponds to the optimum pressurization force.

Thus, claims 1 and 14 should be allowed. This logic also disposes of the rejections of claims 2-9, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 1.

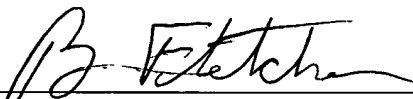
In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants solicit early action in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **163852021000**.

Respectfully submitted,

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